



King County

Department of Community and Human Services

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TTY Relay 711

Veteran Citizens Levy Oversight Board (VCLOB)

Meeting Summary

March 17, 2011 2-4 p.m.

Beacon Hill Library

2821 Beacon Ave. S., Seattle

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Doug Hoople at 2:05 p.m. A quorum was declared.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Oren Hadaller, Doug Hoople - Chair, Gary Kingsbury – Vice-chair, Cynthia Lefever, Kathy Lewis, Robert Stephens, Jr., Roger Welles, Bill Wood

Board Members Excused/Absent: Stan Gunno

King County Staff Present: Debora Gay, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS); Laird Heia, DCHS; John Hoskins, DCHS; Rachel Quinn, Public Health – Seattle King County (PHSKC); Janna Wilson, PHSKC.

Guests: W. Paul Nichol, Jim Benbow

Review of Meeting Summary

The February 17, 2011 VCLOB meeting summary was approved as written.

Call to Order/Roll Call/Introductions

Doug welcomed Rachel Quinn and Janna Wilson from Public Health - Seattle & King County who are here to present an update to the 5.8a Partnership for Health Improvement through Shared Information (PHISI) Initiative. Jim Benbow, PHISI Board member and Associate Director, Addictions Treatment Center/Seattle Division, US VA Puget Sound Health Care System and Dr. W. Paul Nichol - Director, Primary Care Services, VA Puget Sound Health Care System, Seattle Division and chair of the PHISI technology committee provided panel input.

Procurement Plan – PHISI

History

In fall 2009, the VHS Levy Oversight Boards approved a \$480,000 Procurement Plan and allocated \$480,000 for a project to establish “health information exchange” (HIE) capabilities in King County. The initiative’s goal is focused on improving the health of low-income, vulnerable residents by making it easier for authorized care

providers to share information electronically. Using technology to help improve the coordination of health care – across primary care clinics, hospitals, mental health and substance abuse programs, and other health services can improve access to other services, prevent serious illness and help reduce duplication of efforts.

This first phase involved determining the level of interest in working on a health information exchange in the community, what approach would be most valuable and to whom. PHISI staff talked with many stakeholders, convened the “PHISI Board” which operates under the auspices of the Foundation for Health Care Quality and developed to subcommittees under the board, a clinical committee and a technology committee.

After establishing implementation goals came the decision of what to start work on first. A topic that everyone agreed was important was medications. The PHISI Business Plan, includes the detail of how the team arrived at this recommendation as a place to start work on the exchange and coordination.

Phase 2

The PHISI Board is requesting the release of the remaining \$340,000 associated with this procurement plan for two activities: implementing the medication coordination initiative, and carrying out a veteran’s shared care plan pilot project.

Budget

| | PHISI Business Plan Implementation | Veteran’s “Shared Care Plan” Pilot | Total |
|----------------|---|--|-------------------------|
| Funding | <u>\$176,000</u> <u>\$135,000</u> From Human Services Levy <u>\$41,000</u> From Veterans Levy (20% of the \$205,000 available under the Veterans Levy funding) | <u>\$164,000</u> This is 80% of the \$205,000 available under Veterans Levy. | <u>= 340,000</u> |

Budget Explanation

1. **PHISI Project Management and Medication Coordination Initiative.** A total of \$176,000 would be used to pay for project management staff to implement the medication coordination initiative. Of this, \$135,000 would be from Human Services Levy and \$41,000 from the Veterans Levy. Using some Veterans Levy funding is reasonable as veterans are among the overall population that would benefit from this initiative. Approximately \$1-2 million is needed to carry out the project and the Levy-funded project management would also be responsible for securing those funds.
2. **Veterans Shared Care Plan Pilot.** A total of \$164,000 of Veterans Levy funds would be used for a “shared care plan” pilot. The PHISI Project Manager would be responsible for the Veterans Shared Care Plan pilot. This pilot would involve working with a group of veterans to support their use of a web-based “personal health record.” This concept was developed through discussions with the VA Puget Sound Health System and Dr. Paul Nichol who is an active member of the PHISI Board. The VA indicated that the best way for it to begin participation in a safety net HIE would be to provide data directly to a patient, and encourage their sharing it electronically into a shared care plan. The patient would then control the data, and could designate

what specific data can be seen by whom. A Shared Care Plan pilot is currently underway at Harborview's mental health program which will help inform the veteran's pilot project.

Discussion

The board asked how information would be shared in the veterans pilot project, what might be learned about sharing information electronically from coordination among the State Department of Social and Health Services systems and what best practices models PHISI might be able to learn from. Concern was expressed that older vets might be intimidated and distrustful of this new system, but presenters explained the veteran's pilot project would not replace the face to face visit with one's doctor, only augment the system. The project would be deemed successful when the HIE partners together develop an electronic repository of health information, with health care providers in agreement on long term client goals, when a decrease in duplicate prescriptions is achieved, drug allergies avoided, and overall better care provided to veterans.

The VCLOB approved the release of funds for Phase Two of the PHISI project but requested that by the end of April 2011, PHSKC provide Levy staff the following additional information:

1. Timeline, budget and plan for reaching Phase Two milestones
2. Plan for 2012 use of funds if the project is delayed.

Chair's Report

Doug briefed the board on the Levy Renewal Steering Committee meeting that was held on March 9, 2011.

Levy Renewal

Debora reported that the King County Council took action at the March 9, 2011 Regional Policy Committee (RPC) meeting. Both ordinances are now sent to the King County Council's Budget and Fiscal Management Committee meeting in April.

Discussion

Board members discussed the current structure of the oversight boards and the value of citizen boards vs. boards comprised of elected officials and subject matter experts. Board members weighed in on the importance of keeping the boards as citizen boards for the future levy; specifically the importance of having veterans on the board.

County Executive Meeting

Board members have been invited to meet with Executive Constantine on March 25, 2011 to share their thoughts on levy renewal. The board chairs will represent the voice of each board as a whole but it was suggested members be prepared to discuss an aspect of the levy that they are particularly pleased about with the Executive.

Board Letter of Recommendation

Board members reviewed the draft letter to the executive that was drafted by Levy staff based on board recommendations. Debora summarized the RHSLOB comments from their meeting on March 16, 2011.

Recommended edits were noted and a revised draft will be sent out to board members for final review.

Staff Report

- The first bi-annual report is in its final stages of completion. The report includes data from July - December 2010.
- The 2010 Annual Report is under development.
- Marcy received information from the King County Board of Ethics on how the code of ethics affects board and commission member activities around campaign activities. According to the Board of Ethics, board members “are encouraged to take part in the political process on their own time using their own resources – and not representing the county; board and commission members, as a group or individual member. They may not represent a county opinion in this way unless they are authorized to do so within their enabling legislation. Board members would like staff to provide talking points on key areas of the levy so they can speak accurately and consistently on the issues.

Old Business

None to report.

New Business

- The Mayor is hosting a Town Hall on Tuesday, March 22 from 5:30 – 8pm at the Garfield Community Center.
- A documentary on PTSD will be released soon. Cynthia will keep us informed.

Petitions/Communications (Public Comment)

None to report.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.